

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 SAA-01
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-02
HA-05 /122 W

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R 261712Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4817
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 17525

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, UR, PLO, XF
SUBJECT: ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW;PRAVDA ON MIDDLE EAST
SITUATION

SUMMARY: PLO LEADER ARAFAT PASSED THROUGH MOSCOW
JULY 25 ON ROUTE TO HAVANA. PRAVDA ISSUE REPORTING
HIS TRAVEL ALSO CARRIES A SOMBER ASSESSMENT BY
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
ALLEGEDLY RESULTING FROM U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S SO-
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CALLED "BALANCED" POLICY AND SADAT'S PERSONAL
DIPLOMACY OF RECENT MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRAVDA JULY 26 CARRIES A TASS ITEM REPORTING
THAT YASAR ARAFAT, WHILE ON ROUTE TO HAVANA, STOPPED
IN MOSCOW THE PREVIOUS DAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
OPENING OF NEW OFFICES OF THE PLO REPRESENTATION

HERE. PLO MISSION HEAD M. SHAER REPORTEDLY HOSTED THE EVENT AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES (NOT NAMED) WERE ON HAND. IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING ARAFAT IS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED TO A TASS CORRESPONDENT HIS PROFOUND THANKS TO THE SOVIETS, INCLUDING BREZHNEV "PERSONALLY", FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO THE PALESTINIANS. HE ALSO ASSAILED PRESIDENT SADAT FOR "OPENLY TRADING WITH" WEST BANK TERRITORY BY PROPOSING THAT IT BE HANDED OVER TO JORDANIAN CONTROL WHILE GAZA IS TURNED OVER TO EGYPT. ACCORDING TO TASS, ARAFAT COMPLAINED THAT SUCH "CAPITULATIONIST ACTIONS," AS ARE BEING PROPOSED BY SADAT TO THE AMERICANS AND ZIONISTS, REPRESENT STILL FURTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF ALGIERS AND RABAT CONFERENCES.

2. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION

FROM BRIEF CONVERSATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN DIPLOMATS AT A JULY 26 NOONTIME RECEPTION IS THAT ARAFAT PASSED THROUGH MOSCOW QUICKLY AND DID NOT MEET WITH TOP SOVIET OFFICIALS, SOME OF WHOM REMAIN ON WORKING VACATIONS IN THE CRIMEA. LIBYAN FIRST SECRETARY CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING MORE ABOUT ARAFAT'S STAY THAN WHAT PRAVDA REPORTED. EGYPTIAN CHARGE COMMENTED THAT A SIGNIFICANT MEETING WOULD PROBABLY HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS. IN THE ABSENCE OF REAL BUSINESS, HOWEVER, ARAFAT'S

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ITINERARY REMAINS PUZZLING, UNLESS HE HAS PARTICULAR TIES TO THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE HERE (WHOM THE EGYPTIAN INCIDENTALLY SAYS IS A "PURE MARXIST").

3. THE REPORT OF ARAFAT'S VISIT APPEARS ABOVE AN ARTICLE BY ORIENTAL INSTITUTE DIRECTOR PRIMAKOV ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AS IT APPEARS NOW AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A U.S. POLICY PURPORTING TO BE "BALANCED" AND SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM. AMONG PRIMAKOV'S POINTS:

-- ISRAEL HAS IN FACT BECOME MORE UNCOMPROMISING SINCE SADAT'S VISIT, AS SEEN IN BEGIN'S PRONOUNCEMENTS ON RESOLUTION 242 AND THE PALESTINIANS;

-- ALTHOUGH THERE IS MUCH U.S. TALK ABOUT A "BALANCED" POLICY, IN FACT "IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES" IN AMERICAN POLICY, THEY WERE IN THE GREATER U.S. INTEREST IN MOVING CLOSER THE POSITIONS OF ISRAEL AND THE PRO-WEST ARAB STATES, NAMELY EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA;

-- U.S. POLICY IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DIVISION OF
THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEAKENING OF ARAB RESISTANCE
TO ISRAEL. EGYPT'S "PRACTICAL
"NEUTRALIZATION" IS INTENSIFYING THE DANGER FOR
SYRIA AND JORDAN AND IS NOT CREATING CONDITIONS
FOR A MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT ON A "GENERAL COMPROMISE
BASIS."

-- SADAT IS TRYING TO SOLVE TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS
AT THE PALESTINIANS' EXPENSE. IN SADAT'S AND
BEGIN'S PLANS THERE IS NOT EVEN A REFERENCE TO THE
NECESSITY FOR INCLUDING THE PLO IN A RESOLUTION OF
THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. SADAT'S POLICY, INSPIRED
BY WASHINGTON, ALSO THREATENS THE VERY EXISTENCE
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OF LEBANON AS A UNIFIED SOVEREIGN STATE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 17525

-- U.S. AND ISRAELI POLICY IS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE,
THROUGH EXPLOITATION OF INTENSE CONFLICTS IN
LEBANON, THE "GRINDING UP" OF THE PALESTINIAN
ARMED FORCES AND THE CREATION OF A PUPPET "ALTER-
NATIVE" ORGANIZATION REPLACING THE PLO. THE SYRIAN
ARMY IS THE MAIN TARGET OF THE LEBANESE REACTION-
ARIES' ATTACKS. BEHIND THEM STANDS ISRAEL.

4. PRIMAKOV CONCLUDES BY RESTATING IN FAMILIAR
TERMS SOVIET POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND
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REFERRING TO THE OCTOBER 1 SOVIET-AMERICAN STATEMENT
WHICH IN HIS VIEW "OPENED A
REAL ROAD TO RENEWING THE WORK" OF GENEVA. PRIMAKOV
STATES THAT SUBSEQUENTLY WASHINGTON DE FACTO
REJECTED A GENEVA CONFERENCE "UNDER THE PRESSURE
OF MILITARY CIRCLES AND THE ZIONIST LOBBY." THE
SEPARATE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DIALOGUE WHICH THE U.S.
"INSPIRED AND SUPPORTED" HAS NOW LED THE MIDDLE
EAST SETTLEMENT PROCESS INTO A "DEAD-END." THE
QUICKER THE U.S. AND OTHERS REALIZE THAT AN EXIT
FROM THIS SITUATION REQUIRES "CONSIDERATION IN A
DUE FORM OF THE POSITIONS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN
THE CONFLICT, OF ALL INTERESTED STATES," THE SHORTER
WILL BE THE ROAD TO A JUST SETTLEMENT, THE FEWER
LOSSES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL SUFFER.
TOON

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